DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 404 427 UD 031 549

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TITLE Notes of a Racial Caste Baby. Color Blindness and the End of Affirmative Action. Critical America Series.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8147-2651-8
PUB DATE 97
NOTE 211p.
AVAILABLE FROM New York University Press, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012; phone: 800-996-6987 ($24.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Affirmative Action; Court Litigation; *Disadvantaged Youth; *Educational Opportunities; *Equal Education; Equal Opportunities (Jobs); Personal Narratives; *Racial Balance; Racial Bias; Racial Discrimination; *Reverse Discrimination; Selective Admission; United States History; Urban Youth

ABSTRACT

This book is a defense of remedial affirmative action and an assertion that it is a policy that is a fair and workable solution to the chronic problem of racial caste in the United States. The personal narrative of the author, eighth of 10 children born to a single mother on public assistance, is combined with the discussion of American history and legal precedent to support affirmative action. The significance of race and racial caste in the life of the author, who became a professor of constitutional law, and the historical and constitutional legitimacy of remedial affirmative action are explored. Race-based remedial affirmative action promotes racial opportunity and inclusion, both of which are still lacking in the United States. Affirmative action helped the author move out of the ghetto of his childhood through the educational opportunities it provided. It is asserted that it took black people more than three centuries to persuade white Americans to eliminate official white supremacy, but it has only taken a few whites two decades to recast history and convince the Supreme Court that race-based remedial affirmative action must be eliminated. Policies that are color blind will extend white privilege into the next century. (SLD)

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